

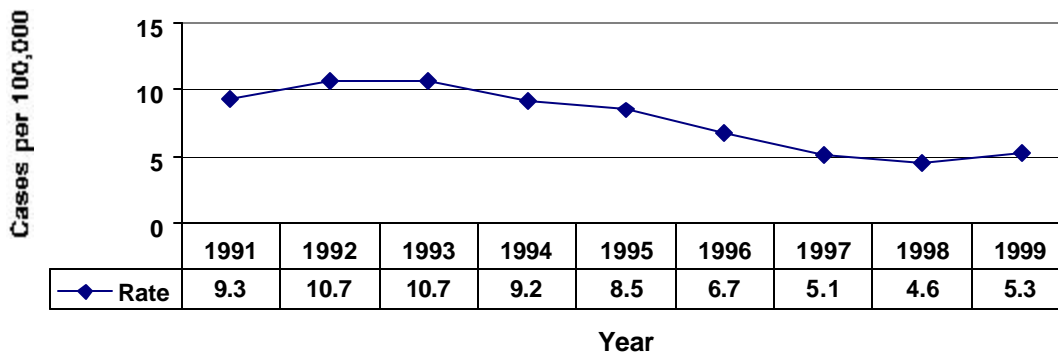
TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis is a bacterial disease usually affecting the lungs (pulmonary TB) caused by organisms in the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis*, and *M. africanum*). Other parts of the body (extrapulmonary TB) also may be affected (e.g., brain, lymph nodes, kidneys, bones, joints, larynx, intestines, eyes). Systemic symptoms include low-grade fever, night sweats, fatigue, and weight loss. In pulmonary or laryngeal TB, there also may be hemoptysis, a persistent and productive cough, chest pain, and shortness of breath. Transmission generally occurs when a susceptible person inhales airborne infectious droplet nuclei from the cough or sneeze of an infectious person.

Laboratory Confirmation by one of the following methods:

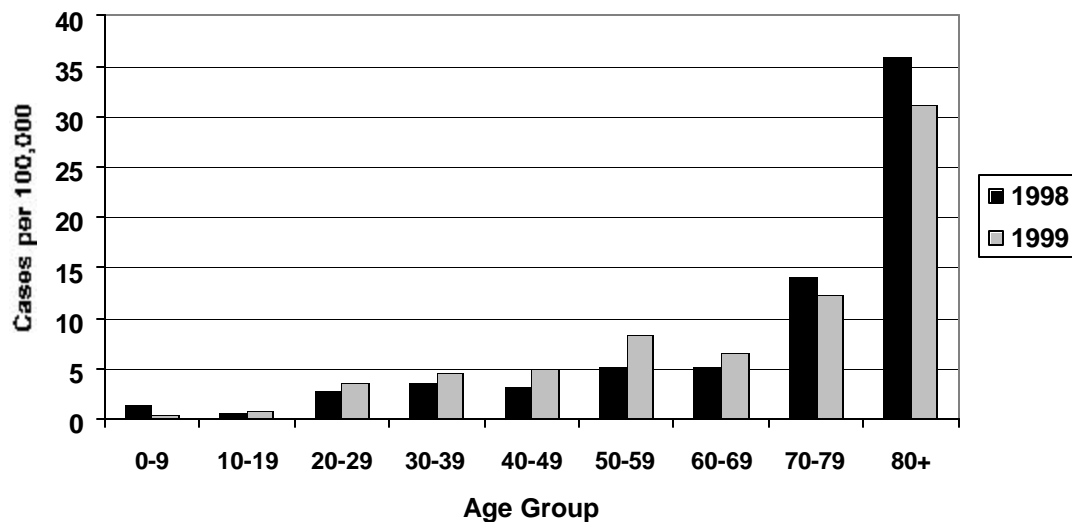
- Isolation of *M. tuberculosis* or *M. tuberculosis* complex organisms from a clinical specimen, **OR**
- Demonstration of *M. tuberculosis* from a clinical specimen by nucleic acid amplification test, **OR**
- Demonstration of acid-fast bacilli in a clinical specimen when a culture has not been or cannot be obtained. This criterion has most commonly been used to diagnose tuberculosis in the post mortem setting.

Tuberculosis Incidence, Kentucky 1991-1999



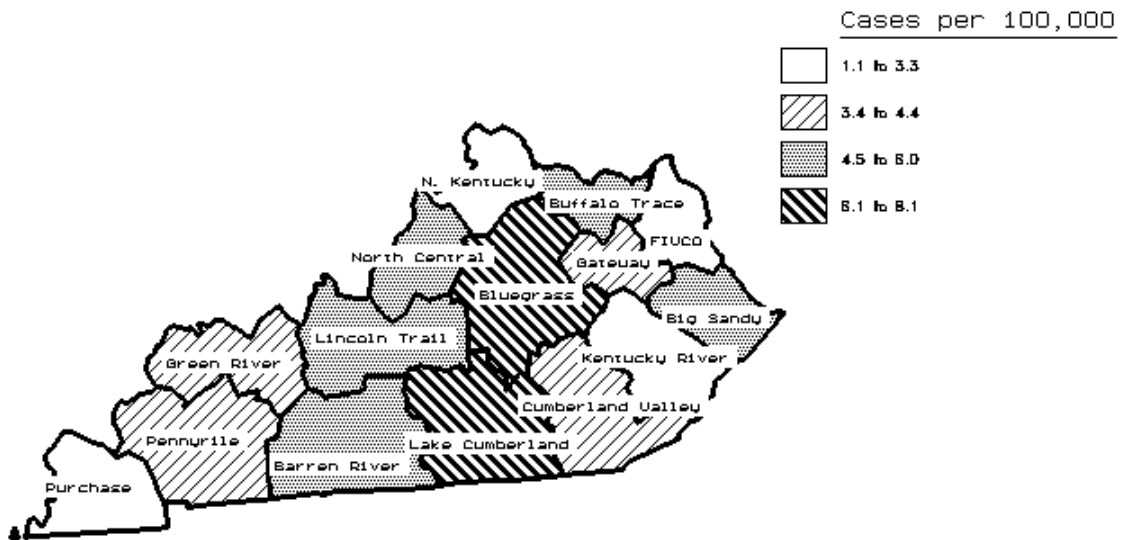
	1998	1999
Number of Cases	179	209
Rate per 100,000	4.6	5.3
Rate by Gender (per 100,000)		
Female	3.1	3.1
Male	6.2	7.7
Rate by Race (per 100,000)		
White	4.0	4.1
Black	8.1	13.4
Hispanic	15.4	27.7
Asian	29.5	44.3

Tuberculosis, Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 1998-1999



The incidence of reported tuberculosis cases continues to be highest in persons 80 and older (36 cases per 100,000 in 1998 and 31.1 cases per 100,000 in 1999).

Tuberculosis by District, Kentucky Average Annual Incidence, 1998-1999



The Bluegrass District reported the highest average incidence of 8.1 cases per 100,000 and the Lake Cumberland District reported the next highest rate of 7.2 cases per 100,000. Two counties in the Bluegrass District, Fayette (17.4 cases per 100,000 in 1999) and Jessamine (21.9 cases per 100,000 in 1999) experienced increased rates in 1999 which sharply increased the district's overall average annual incidence.

The state rate in 1998 of 4.6 cases per 100,000 is the lowest rate ever reported in Kentucky for tuberculosis cases since national reporting began in 1953.